

## New benefit and provider fee levels effective October 2012

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The statewide average weekly wage (SAWW) effective Oct. 1, 2012, is \$916, a 2.23 percent increase from the current SAWW of \$896, which has been in effect since Oct. 1, 2011. [See the table on this page.] The levels for minimum and maximum weekly benefit payments are presented in the table on page 3. The statewide annual average wage will change to \$47,616 on Jan. 1, 2013.

The new SAWW is based on 2011 payroll and employment figures supplied by the Department of Employment and Economic Development and the calculation procedure in Minnesota Statutes § 176.011, subd. 1b. The change in the SAWW is the basis for the M.S. § 176.645 annual benefit adjustment. The time of the first adjustment is limited by M.S. § 176.645, subd. 2.

Pursuant to Minnesota Rules 5220.1900, subp. 1b, the maximum qualified rehabilitation consultant (QRC) hourly fee will increase by 2 percent, to \$96.57 Oct. 1, 2012. The maximum hourly rate for rehabilitation job development and placement services, whether provided by rehabilitation vendors or by QRC firms, will increase to \$73.31 on Oct. 1, 2012.

Pursuant to M.S. § 176.136, subd. 1a, which provides for annual adjustments of the medical fee schedule conversion factor by no more than the change in the statewide average weekly wage, the conversion factors will be increased by 1.5 percent, which is the percent change in the producer price index for offices of physicians (PPI-P) developed by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Effective Oct. 1, 2012, as approved by an administrative law judge at the Office of Administrative Hearings, the new conversion factors will be:

- medical/surgical services in part 5221.4030.....\$69.87
- pathology/laboratory services in part 5221.4040 .....\$41.16
- physical medicine/rehabilitation services in part 5221.4050.....\$54.41
- chiropractic services in part 5221.4060.....\$55.58

Minnesota Rules, part 5219.0500, subp. 4, provides for adjustment of the maximum fees for independent medical examinations in the same manner as the adjustment of the conversion factor. Therefore, the maximum independent medical examination fees will be increased by 1.5 percent for services provided on or after Oct. 1, 2012.

An official notice of the medical fee schedule conversion factors and independent medical examination fees as approved by the administrative law judge will be published in the *State Register* in September.

**Statewide average weekly wage  
Effective Oct. 1 of the indicated year**

	Statewide average weekly wage	
1999 .....	\$615 .....	6.22%
2000 .....	\$642 .....	4.39%
2001 .....	\$680 .....	5.92%
2002 .....	\$702 .....	3.24%
2003 .....	\$718 .....	2.28%
2004 .....	\$740 .....	3.06%
2005 .....	\$774 .....	4.59%
2006 .....	\$782 .....	1.03%
2007 .....	\$808 .....	3.32%
2008 .....	\$850 .....	5.20%
2009 .....	\$878 .....	3.29%
2010 .....	\$868 .....	-1.14%
2011 .....	\$896 .....	3.23%
2012 .....	\$916 .....	2.23%

## Compensation rates as of Oct. 1, 2012

**Statewide average weekly wage (SAWW) = \$916**  
**Percentage change in SAWW from previous year = 2.23%**  
*(Apply Minn. Stat. §176.645 adjustment as necessary based on date of injury.)*

<b>Maximum under M.S. §§176.101 and 176.111</b>	<b>Minimum under M.S. §176.101, subd. 1(2)</b>	<b>Supplementary benefits under M.S. §176.132</b>
		(Minnesota Statutes 1994) and permanent total minimum under M.S. §176.101, subd. 4 <b>(for injuries 10-1-95 and later)</b>
		50% of the SAWW or gross wage, whichever is less, but in no case less than 20% of the SAWW
	20%	
10-01-88 .....	\$391.00	10-01-88 ....\$195.50 (gross wage - \$293.25) ..\$ 78.20
10-01-89 .....	\$413.00	10-01-89 ....\$206.50 (gross wage - \$309.75) ..\$ 82.60
10-01-90 .....	\$428.00	10-01-90 ....\$214.00 (gross wage - \$321.00) ..\$ 85.60
10-01-91 .....	\$443.00	10-01-91 ....\$221.50 (gross wage - \$332.25) ..\$ 88.60
		20% of the SAWW or the employee's actual weekly wage, whichever is less
10-01-92 .....	\$481.95	10-01-92 .....\$91.80
10-01-93 .....	\$508.20	10-01-93 .....\$96.80
10-01-94 .....	\$516.60	10-01-94 .....\$98.40
		Set by statute
10-01-95 .....	\$615.00	10-01-00 .....\$750.00
<b>10-01-08 .....</b>	<b>\$850.00</b>	<b>10-01-00 .....</b> <b>\$130.00</b>
		Set by statute, the listed amount or the employee's actual weekly wage, whichever is less
		10-01-95 .....\$104.00
		<b>10-01-00 .....</b> <b>\$130.00</b>
		10-01-04 .....\$481.00 (round)
		10-01-05 .....\$503.10 (rounded to \$504)*
		10-01-06 .....\$508.30 (rounded to \$509)*
		10-01-07 .....\$525.20 (rounded to \$526)*
		10-01-08 .....\$552.50 (rounded to \$553)
		10-01-09 .....\$570.70 (rounded to \$571)*
		10-01-10 .....\$564.20 (rounded to \$565)*
		10-01-11 .....\$582.40 (rounded to \$583)*
		<b>10-01-12 .....</b> <b>\$595.40</b> (rounded to \$596)*

\*Rounding applies to supplementary benefits.